



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

GLORIA J. JEFF
DIRECTOR

March 26, 2003

The Honorable Shirley Johnson, Chair
Appropriation Subcommittee
on Transportation
Michigan State Senate
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable Scott Shackleton, Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee
on Transportation
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Senator Johnson and Representative Shackleton:

Enrolled House Bill No. 5651, Section 318 requirement states

The department shall continue its program to increase the use of women and minority-owned businesses in state and local road construction projects. This program shall comprise, at a minimum, outreach and education efforts to inform women- and minority-owned firms of department competitive bidding processes and requirements, and an assessment of the availability of surety for women- and minority-owned businesses.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) is committed to increasing participation of minority and women owned businesses in state and local road construction projects.

Toward this goal, Office of Equal Opportunity outreach activities for fiscal year 2002 included 11 Business Opportunity Forums (BOF) statewide sponsored by MDOT:

Michigan Department of Management and Budget Acquisition Services and Infrastructure Services
Michigan Economic Development Corporation
Michigan Department of Career Development
Michigan Department of Corrections
Michigan State Industries
Other state and local partners.

As a result of this outreach participation, 115 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification applications were requested and mailed.

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OEO also participated in other outreach activities sponsored by: African American Trucking Association, Michigan Minority Business Development Council, 5th Annual Minority Business Development Conference with Lewis College of Business, Michigan Road Builders Association, Construction Association of Michigan's Design & Construction Expo, National Association of Women in Construction, Women's Business Council's Breakthrough Breakfast, Michigan Minority Business Development Council's Procurement Conference & Trade Fair, and MDOT's Annual DBE Conferences. As a result of these activities, 170 DBE packages were requested and mailed. OEO also received over 24 calls requesting certification applications as a result of outreach awareness.

In calendar year 2002, 310 requests for DBE applications were a result of OEO's outreach participation. OEO renewed 69 DBE applications, approved 82 new firms in the DBE Program, and referred 20 firms to our in-state partners during FY 2002.

The DBE Program held its Annual Business Development Conference at two locations for attendance by certified contractors, minority and women owned businesses. The conferences entitled "Partners in Success" were held in Detroit and Mt. Pleasant. Each day of the conference had a separate theme. The first day, "Networking for Visibility", provided a series of forums to enhance networking and expand contracting opportunities for attendees. Session topics included: Networking in an E-Age, Face-to-Face, One-to-One, concluding with a networking reception. Day two of the conference, "Success in a Competitive Environment," included such topics as MDOT's Changing Business Practices, Legislative Updates, Supplier & Trucker Updates, CPR Training, Cost Controls for Construction and Service firms. The conferences were vehicles by which MDOT is improving Michigan's total transportation system by efficiently delivering transportation products, services and information to those certified or seeking certification.

The Education and Training Program received 271 applications for reimbursement of training sessions attended by certified DBEs in FY 2002 and 251 applications were approved for training in areas that provided assistance to the firm to help in their goals to become self-sufficient in a competitive environment.

Sincerely,


Gloria J. Jeff
Director

c Govt. Affairs
M. Frierson
P. Collins